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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/576,597	04/21/2006	Stevan Guernalec	17102/029001	4103

22511 7590 09/24/2010
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EXAMINER

TORRENTE, RICHARD T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/24/2010

ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/576,597	Applicant(s) GUERNALEC ET AL.	
	Examiner RICHARD TORRENTE	Art Unit 2621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 February 2007 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-16 and 18-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bingle et al. (US 2006/0171704).

Regarding claim 1, Bingle discloses an arrangement for mounting and fixing a rearview camera (see 10 in fig. 1) to a structure element of a body of a motor vehicle (see fig. 1), the arrangement being of the type in which the rearview camera is arranged at a rear of the motor vehicle (see fig. 1) and an optical axis of the rearview camera extends substantially longitudinally towards the rear of the motor vehicle (see fig. 1); the rearview camera being arranged inside a housing that is hermetically-sealed (see fig. 3; see ¶ [0010]), and that is provided with a view window situated on the optical axis of the rearview camera (see fig. 4); said arrangement being characterized in that the window comprises an opening (see 20 in fig. 7) in the housing that is provided on the optical

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axis of the rearview camera and that is closed off by a transverse vertical pane made of a transparent material (see 22 in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 2, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the housing comprises a frame for supporting the transverse vertical pane which defines a rear transverse vertical wall, and in that the transverse vertical pane is pressed longitudinally towards the rear against a front transverse vertical face of the frame (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 3, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the frame carries resilient elements which are in contact with a front transverse vertical face of the transverse vertical pane, for holding the transverse vertical pane pressed against a front face of the frame (see ¶ [0004]).

Regarding claim 4, Bingle further discloses characterized in that a top face of a bottom transverse segment of the frame slopes downwards, from the bottom edge of the transverse vertical pane (see fig. 20).

Regarding claim 5, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the housing carries spray means (see 128 in fig. 20; see ¶ [0106]) for spraying cleaning liquid for cleaning an outside transverse vertical face of the transverse vertical pane.

Regarding claim 6, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the spray means are formed integrally with the housing (see 128 in fig. 20).

Regarding claim 8, Bingle further discloses characterized in that an inside vertical transverse face of the transverse vertical pane is covered with a layer of heater material suitable for generating heat (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 9, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the resilient elements are made of an electrically conductive material so as to connect the heater material electrically to an electrical current source (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 10, Bingle further discloses comprising strips of conductive material that extend longitudinally inside the housing for electrically connecting the resilient elements to a current source (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 11, Bingle further discloses characterized in that each of the resilient elements constitutes a rear end segment of a respective one of the strips of conductive material (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 12, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the resilient elements are separate elements mounted on the rear ends of the strips of conductive material (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 13, Bingle further discloses characterized in that each of the resilient elements is provided with a presser finger for pressing against the front face of the transverse vertical pane, which finger is suitable for sliding inside a tubular element (see ¶ [0086]), and is held resiliently in abutment against the front face of the transverse vertical pane (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 14, Bingle further discloses characterized in that a front longitudinal end of each of the strips of conductive material extends inside a socket (see fig. 15A; see fig. 17) that extends upwards relative to a top wall of the housing, and that is open at its rear end for receiving a complementary connector (see fig. 7).

Regarding claims 15 and 16, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the housing is provided with a frame for supporting the transverse vertical pane, which frame is overmolded around a peripheral edge of the transverse vertical pane (see fig. 7), and characterized in that the frame and the transverse vertical pane are fixed to the housing by fixing means which are suitable for electrically connecting the layer of heater material to a current source (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 18, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the clip is provided with at least one contact finger for establishing contact with the layer of heater material (see 30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 19, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the fixing means are made in one piece by cutting out and folding a strip of electrically conductive material (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 20, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the clip is provided with means for vertically positioning it relative to the transverse vertical plane (see 30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 21, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the fixing means are symmetrical about a horizontal midplane (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 22, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the frame is overmolded around the clip of each fixing means (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 23, Bingle further discloses comprising a structural vehicle-body element having a rear vertical wall and a bottom horizontal wall which extends longitudinally forwards from a bottom edge of the rear vertical wall, and of the type in which a body of the housing passes through a complementary orifice in the bottom horizontal wall at least in part, said arrangement being characterized in that it is provided with means for deflecting water flowing over the rear wall, substantially above the rearview camera (see fig. 20).

Regarding claim 24, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the arrangement is provided with a tongue that extends vertically downwards from the bottom wall, behind the rearview camera, and that has a free bottom end edge that is arched so as to at least partially re-direct the water flowing over the rear wall (see fig. 20).

Regarding claim 25, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the bottom edge of the tongue is curved back towards the rear to form an arched lip (see 8b in fig. 18).

Regarding claim 26, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the rear vertical wall is provided with a projection that projects towards the rear (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 27, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the housing is made of a transparent material, and in that each wall of the housing other than the rear vertical transverse wall is covered with a layer of an opaque material (see 11 in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 28, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the transverse vertical pane is in the form of a disk that is coaxial with the optical axis of the rearview camera (see 22 in fig. 6), and in that a peripheral edge of the transverse vertical pane is provided with a thread that co-operates with a complementary thread in the frame so as

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to close the opening in the housing in waterproof manner and in removable manner (see 22 in fig. 6).

Regarding claim 29, Bingle further discloses comprising: at least one resilient electrical connection means (see 30 in fig. 7); and conductive tracks designed for electrically powering the layer of heater material suitable for generating heat (see 30a-30d in fig. 7); the resilient electrical connection means being placed such as to generate electrical contact between said layer and said tracks (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 30, Bingle further discloses characterized in that one resilient connection means extends over a first side of the rear face of the transverse vertical pane and another resilient connection means extends over a second side of the face opposite from the first face (see 30a-30d in fig. 7).

Regarding claim 31, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the arrangement is provided with sealing means whose rear portion is overmolded around a peripheral edge of the resilient connection means and extends over a periphery of the rear face of the transverse vertical pane (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 32, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the sealing means are in the form of a non-conductive elastomer (see ¶ [0004]).

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Regarding claim 33, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the sealing means further include a front portion connected to the rear portion via at least one bridge, the bridge being designed to be folded so that the rear portion and the front portion are placed respectively against the rear transverse face and against the front transverse face of the transverse vertical pane (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 34, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the arrangement is provided with a thermal protection component for regulating the temperature of the layer (see ¶ [0087]).

Regarding claim 35, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the thermal protection component is electrically coupled between the resilient connection means and the conductive tracks (see fig. 7).

Regarding claim 36, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the resilient connection means are filled with electrically conductive particles (see fig. 15).

Regarding claim 37, Bingle further discloses characterized in that the arrangement is provided with a locking clip (see 16c in fig. 6) suitable for compressing the resilient connection means between the transverse vertical pane and the conductive tracks.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. (US 2006/0171704).

Regarding claim 7, although Bingle discloses characterized in that the spray means comprise a nozzle that is fixed to a bottom horizontal wall of the housing (see 128 in fig. 20. Note that Bingle spray is at the bottom location because the pane is inclined downward), it is noted that Bingle does not disclose wherein the nozzle is fixed to a top horizontal wall.

However, Bingle does show another embodiment wherein the camera is in a horizontal plane (see 10 in fig. 1). Applying the spray teaching of fig. 20, it would be obvious to place the spray heads on the top horizontal portion to spray downward for the benefit of letting gravity takes care of the flow of liquid in washing the pane.

5. Claim 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingle et al. (US 2006/0171704) in view of Mousseau et al. (US 7,075,511).

Regarding claim 17, although Bingle discloses characterized in that the fixing means comprise at least one clip arranged at one edge of the transverse vertical pane (see 16c in fig. 6), it is noted that Bingle does not disclose a longitudinal fixing catch that extends longitudinally forwards from the clip and that is suitable for being received in a complementary recess in the housing.

However, Mousseau, in the same field of endeavor, discloses a housing attachment wherein at least one clip arranged at one edge of the transverse vertical pane (see 18a in fig. 3), and a longitudinal fixing catch that extends longitudinally forwards from the clip and that is suitable for being received in a complementary recess in the housing (see attached with recess in the housing 16 in fig. 2).

Given the teachings as a whole, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Mousseau teachings of clip attachment into Bingle attachment for the benefit of provide components that can accommodate a greater range of manufacturing or assembly tolerances and, further, accommodate different assembly designs..

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RICHARD TORRENTE whose telephone number is (571) 270-3702. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7:30 - 5:00 EST.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on (571) 272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Young Lee/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621

/Richard Torrente/
Examiner, Art Unit 2621